Size: 4,626 acres
Mission: Conducted tactical fighter and bomber training
HRS Score: 50.00; proposed for NPL in January 1994
IAG Status: None
Contaminants: Jet fuel and waste oil, spent solvents, VOCs
Media Affected: Groundwater and soil
Funding to Date: $34.4 million
Estimated Cost to Completion (Completion Year): $14.2 million (FY2015)
Final Remedy in Place or Response Complete Date for BRAC Sites: FY2000

Oscoda, Michigan

Restoration Background

In July 1991, the BRAC Commission recommended closure of Wurtsmith Air Force Base, transfer of KC-135 aircraft to the Air Reserve Component, retirement of the assigned B-52G aircraft, and inactivation of the 379th Bombardment Wing. The installation closed on June 30, 1993.

Sites at the installation include a waste solvent underground storage tank (UST), bulk storage areas for petroleum/oil/lubricants (POL), aboveground storage tanks (ASTs), fire training areas, and an aircraft crash site. Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) present at the installation include trichloroethene; dichloroethene; vinyl chloride; and benzene, toluene, ethyl benzene, and xylenes, all of which primarily affect groundwater.

Interim Actions at the installation provided drinking water to potentially affected communities in the area. Air strippers were installed to treat groundwater contaminated with VOCs. Remedial Actions (RAs) included implementation of three groundwater extraction and treatment systems with air stripping capabilities.

The installation's BRAC cleanup team (BCT), which was formed in FY94, developed a master environmental restoration schedule and set priorities for site investigations and actions. A BRAC Cleanup Plan was prepared. Regulatory agencies concurred in the designation of 2,257 acres as CERFA-clean. Intrinsic remediation projects are under way at four fuel-contaminated sites.

In FY95, Supplemental Environmental Baseline Surveys were completed to facilitate transfer of property. Draft Feasibility Studies were completed for seven sites, and the installation obtained the concurrence of the regulatory agencies on nine sites designated for no further action. In addition, the installation conducted Relative Risk Site Evaluations (RRSEs) at all sites, involving both the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) and the BCT in the effort. An RA for removal of eight USTs and most of the piping for the hydrant refueling system also was completed. Additional Interim Actions included removal of the hydrant refueling system and closure of five oil-water separators. The installation also installed groundwater monitoring wells and used groundwater modeling to predict cleanup times for RA systems.

During FY96, the installation removed 38 USTs and 10 ASTs. Three large bulk fuel tanks were dismantled. Remedial Design (RD) projects for seven sites were awarded. Two of the three sewage treatment plant lagoons were closed and the sludge removed. The installation submitted No Further Remedial Action Planned (NFRAP) decision documents for seven sites and updated RRSEs as new site data were obtained. Bioventing was implemented at the former POL storage yard to degrade semivolatiles in the soil.

In FY97, design began on an enhanced in situ bioremediation process for groundwater at LF30/31. The technology will include injection of chemicals to speed up the natural bioremediation process. Through the RAB, the installation was able to obtain stakeholder concurrence on the Remedial Action Plan (RAP) for LF30/31. Field investigations at landfills 62 and 63 indicated that no further action is required. The water and sewer systems ceased operating, but physical closure was cancelled at the request of the Township of Oscoda so that the plant could be used as a municipal sewage treatment plant.

FY98 Restoration Progress

Investigations were completed for 7 sites and 31 areas of concern (AOCs), and continue at 4 AOCs. Intrinsic remediation monitoring systems were completed for ST-41, SS-42, and SS-51. Air-sparging and soil vapor extraction wells were installed at SS-06 and SS-08.

Improvements have been made to the free-product recovery system of the benzene plant, resulting in hundreds of gallons of free product removed from the water table. RD continued for LF30/31 and FT-02. RDs for four of the nine sites required data gaps to be filled before cleanup systems were completed.

Regulatory concurrence was obtained on a draft report for two landfills. NFRAP documents are being prepared for final concurrence.

Plan of Action

- Complete RDs for OT-24, LF-30/31, FT-02, and OT-16 in FY99
- Obtain BCT concurrence on all decision documents in FY99
- Develop a consolidated RAP in FY99

Sites Achieving RIP or RC Per Fiscal Year